(d) The remedial steps being taken include periodical review meetings with the State Governments/Eiectricity Boards; setting up, by the Rural Electrification corporation of Project Offices in the States to monitor execution of the programme, modification by the REC of its loaning/ disbursement policy, formulation of year-wise Works Programme for each SEB and tying up of essential inputs with the Works Programme.

Reported Statement of a retired Lt. General regarding Desertion by Indian Troops in 1965

853. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Statesman of 5th June, 1985 regarding a statement by the retired Lt. General Harbaksh Singh to the effect that he was an eye-witness to mass desertion by Indian troops during war with Pakistan in 1965**;**

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had published any rebattal; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statement made by the retired General is factually incorrect, inasmuch as there were no mass desertions during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. It was not felt necessary to publish a rebuttal as serious doubts were cast on the authenticity of the statement made by the ratired General during his cross-examination by the prosecutor. This was also published in the same news report.

Indira Ghandhi Canal in Rajasthan

854. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR.

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of money has been spent in the construction of 4.45 Km. long Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan:

(b) what progress has been made in its construction so far; and is the time schedule for completing the work of this canal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND); (a) According to the report from the State Government, upto May, 1985, about Rs. 453 uores have been spent on the Indira Gandhi canal project.

(b) It is reported that the work on construction of Stage-I is almost complete and in Stage-II about 87 per cent of the main canal and 9 per cent of the distri butary system has been completed.

(c) The State Government have recently revised the scope of Stage-II of the Project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the 8th Plan.

Power Plants in Bihar

855. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI S. W. DHABE;

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in the work on the power plants in Bihar such as at Kanti, Koel Karo, Kahalgoan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the allocations for these plants for this year and for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) The First Unit at Kanti Thermal Power Plant has been commissioned in March, 1985. The [second unit is expected to 'be commissioned \ in March, 1986. Only some prelimenary works have been undertaken at Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project and Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Power Project, the time schedule of commissioning for these projects cannot be finalised till land aequisi-I tion has been completed.

(c) During 1985-86 allocation for the projects is as under:—

Kilt. . . . R.3- *22* crores
Koel-karo Rs. i.n crore
Kahalgaon . . Rs. 15.73

The allocation for 1986-87 will b$_e$ mads only at the beginning of next year.

Non-attaching of 3 tier Coach to Konark Super Express

856. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS De pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 18th May, 1985 no second class 3tier coach was attached to the Konark Super Express from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar despite the fact that public had been given advance confirmed reservations;

(b) whether it i$_s$ also a fact that due to the tapse on the part of the Railways many passengers holding confirmed reservation tickets could not board the train:

(c) whether it is also a fact that passengers were put to a lot of inconvenience because the TTE on duty was absent; and

(d) if the reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (c) On 18-5-1985-one of the sleeper coaches in 20 Konark Express was replaced by a second class coach as no spare sleeper coach was available. As against a quota of 36 berths for Secunderabad in this coach, only 14 berths were booked and these passengers were accommodated in other coaches by the TTE and Train Superintendent

(d) All efforts will be made to provide Sleeper coaches.

Setting up of Health Field Survey Units

857. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are planning to set up Health Field Survey Units in remote areas so that their benefits percolate down to the poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Scheme; and

(c) lite provisions made in the Seventh Plan to mak$_e$ this Scheme a success?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA-NAND): (a) to (c) There is no specific proposal of setting up Health Field Survey Units in remote areas. However, the field Survey Units under Health Intelligence Evaluation and Surveys Scheme, are utilised for determining the Health Assessment needs of the population of remote areas also. An amount of Rs. 10.55 lac ha$_s$ been provided for this Scheme in the 1985-86 Plan. The Seventh Five-Year Plan outlays have not been decided yet.

Refusal of Taxi and Scooter Drivers to go to Short Distances.

858. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that both at Delhi junction and New Delhi Railway Station taxi and scooter drivers refuse to take passengers including Members of Parliament to Western Court, Windsor Place, Connaught Place, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Kasturba Gandhi Marg and as a result thereof considerable hardship is caused to railway passengers"; and

(*b)* what remedial measures Govern ment propose to take to remove the hard ship?

THE MINISTER OF STA^TE OF THE MINISTRY SHIPPING AND TRANS PORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Instances have come to notice regarding the refusal by Scooter/Taxi drivers, to carry short-distance passengers. The steps taken by Traffic Police authorities and Directorate of Transport Delhi Administration, t$_0$ curb these type of incidents are as under;

(i) Traffic Assistance Booths at important places, like Railway Stations,